1960 – 1969

Two Iranian officers become the first two allied officers to have ever attended AMSS to study food inspection and food sanitation procedures.

("Iranians are First Allied Veterinary Officers to Train at BAMC," Talon, 21 Jan 1960)

The Brooke Army Hospital became Brooke Army University, a medical research and training center. The decision was made to permanently locate the Army's greatest facilities for medical treatment, education, training and research at Fort Sam Houston.

("Brook Army Hospital becomes Brooke Army University," San Antonio Express, 9 Feb 1960)

"COL Pappas, Director of Supply at BAMC, predicts that the medic of 1974 may well be the glamour boy of the Armed Services. On the threshold of fantastic changes, he envisions medical teams using flying platforms or jeeps that will answer signals emitted from wounded soldiers. They will be in white uniforms capable of heat and carrying all supplies necessary. COL Pappas also stated that with hospitals being set up some 500 miles away, a guided missile cruising at a comfortable speed of 2000 MPH will transport patients to the hospital. An amazing number of hospital supply items will be disposable."

("Medic Envisioned as 1974 Glamour Boy," publication unknown, 17 March 1960)

The BAMC Float took Top Prize in the 1960 Battle of the Flowers Parade. Its theme was "Drama of Time."

("BAMC Float takes Top Prize," Talon, 28 April 1960)

Birth of Prince

International relations at the AMSS in 1960 included celebrating the birth of the recently born Crowned Prince of Iran. Left to right are MG and Mrs. John F. Bojlender, Commander of BAMC; Mrs. Preston H. Dial, President of the San Antonio Council of International Relations; COL Chassem Nik-Nejjad, senior Iranian student at the AMSS; and BG and Mrs. James L. Synder, Commandant, AMSS.

("Friends, Classmates, and Instructors," Talon 17 November 1960)

An Army Nurse Corps medal was authorized by the Office of the Surgeon General to be awarded to the most outstanding ANC student in each Advanced Military Nursing Class at the Medical Service School. The medal was a tribute from all members of the Corps interested in recognizing the professional standing of military nursing. The first recipient was CPT Angeline Hennick and was presented in June 1961.

("Outstanding Army Nurse Corps Student will Receive Newly Authorized Medal," Military Service News, 30 Sept 1960)

The AMSS Instructor's Training Unit trained students to become better instructors. By 1960 the Unit had trained 53% of all instructors assigned to the school. The Unit helped even seasoned instructors by conducting critiques of presentations as well as informing them of the availability of training aids, classroom equipment, or academic records.

("Students Become Teachers," Talon, 8 Sept 1960)

President Truman

Former President Harry S. Truman with three candidates of the AMSS "Citizen Soldier" Program. Let to right are PVT George Francis, PVT Ray Kaylor, and PVT Albert Woodward.

("Harry S. Truman Meets with MTC Citizen Soldier Nominees," Talon, 13 Oct 1960)

Fifty San Antonians presented a demonstration of emergency medical procedures in the Army Medical Service School Quadrangle. They cared for 150 simulated casualties to show how lives can be saved even though professional medical care personnel may not be available. These 50 people evacuated the pre-sorted casualties into 5 aid stations in the Quadrangle and demonstrated emergency life-saving procedures.

("Nonmedical Civilians To Test Emergency Medical Knowledge," Talon, 27 Oct 1960)

1961

On January 1961, the Army Medical Service School's name was officially changed back to the Medical Field Service School.

LTC George F. Rumer, Director of the Department of Medicine and Surgery at the MFSS, reported to a Congressional group in Washington, D.C., on the Army Medical Service Training in Care of Mass Causalities on 18 July 1961. The Congressional group, composed mainly of Congressmen holding commissions in the U.S. Army Reserves, heard Rummer discuss the "anticipated tremendous patient load" associated with nuclear warfare as well as the Army's emergency medical care program. He also presented a summary of the various levels of training received by all Army personnel.

("COL Rumer to D.C. Mass Casualties Report for Congressional Group," Talon, 13 July 1961)

The first enlisted pharmacy specialist course since 1953 was reinstituted.

("EM Pharmacy Courses Reinstituted at MFSS," Talon, 20 July 1961)

COL Ruby G. Bradley

COL Ruby G. Bradley, the Army's most decorated nurse, was assigned Director of Nursing Activities at Brooke Army Medical Center. Described in 1961 as "slight, graying, gentle-featured [and] soft-spoken," Bradley, an Army officer since 1934, was a nurse of steel and compassion, having accomplished her nursing mission as a Japanese prisoner of war in the Philippines during WWII and then in Korea, where she was one of the first combat nurses to arrive during the conflict. She was responsible for establishing nursing service for field and evacuation hospitals for the Army, and then, as Chief Nurse, Eighth Army, developing the Korean Nurses' Association to train Korean Nurses in American nursing methods.

("COL Bradley New BAMC Nursing Activities Directors," Talon, 6 July 1961)

In anticipation of mobilization, the Medical Specialist Advanced Course was redesigned to open the course to more students, reduce training time, and raise standards by offering the course at other hospitals besides BAMC. By June 1961, Madigan and Womack Army Hospitals joined BAMC, Walter Reed, Fitzsmons, and Letterman General Hospital, where courses for advanced training had been taking place since 1955.

("Medical Advanced Course Now Open to Lower Grade," Talon, 29 June 1961)

Brooke General Hospital was named one of three new training sites for an advanced course for medical laboratory technicians by the Office of The Surgeon General.

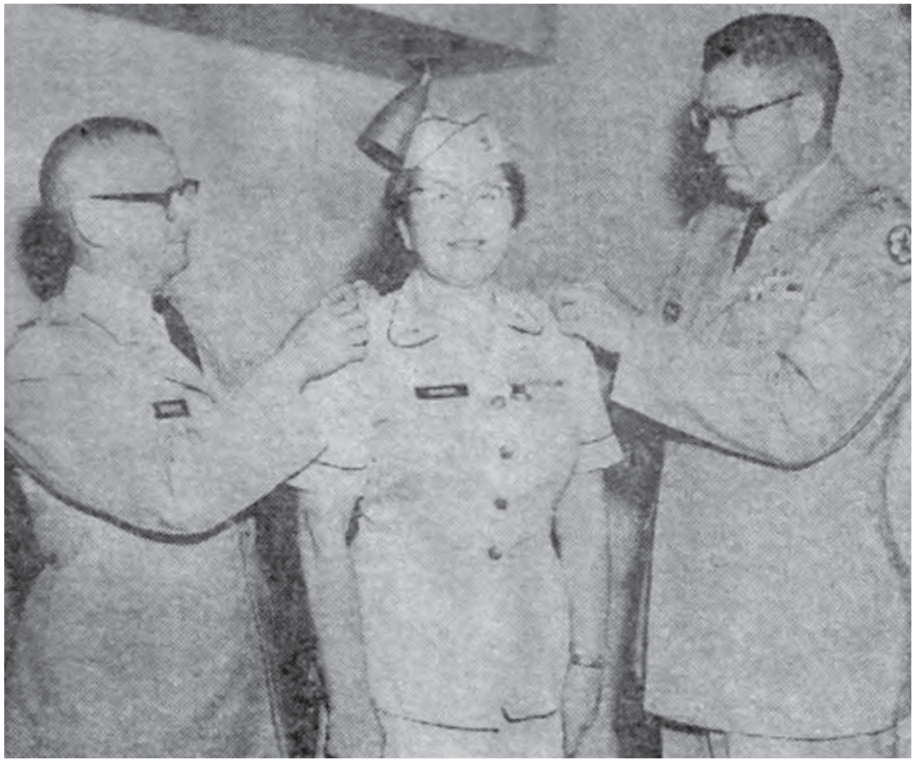
("BGH Selected as Site for Advanced Med Lab Course," Talon, 27 July 1961)

The Entomology Branch of the Preventive Medicine Department of the MFSS made headline news multiple times in 1961 for publishing papers on antivenin, conducting a symposium at the 10th Pacific Science Congress in Hawaii, collecting mosquitoes and insects for study, and having been involved in toxicity studies of DEET (diethyl toluamide) from 1954-58.

("Antivenin Study in Health Periodical," Talon, 3 August 1961; "MFSS Entomology Instructor to Conduct Symposium at Science Congress in Hawaii," Military Science News, 11 August 1961; "New Insect Repellents Brings Fond Memories," Talon, 1 August 1961; "67th Med Group on Mosquito Hunt," Talon, 9 Nov 1961)

The largest single group of Army Veterinary Corps officers to train at the MFSS arrived in August 1961. Three BAMC field tents replicating a small animal ward were established at Camp Bullis. There, sentry dogs from Lackland Air Force Base played the role of simulated casualties for the veterinarians to work on.

("Three BAMC Field Tents Really Going to the Dogs," Talon, 10 August 1961)



COL Clara Raven

COL Raven, "The first 'lady doctor' to wear the silver eagles of a full Colonel in the Army Medical Corps," was pinned at a ceremony at BAMC. COL Raven, pathologist, was the Chief of the Laboratory Service with the 323d General Hospital, a U.S. Army Reserve unit from Detroit, Michigan. The unit was at the MFSS for its annual two weeks training when her promotion was made during opening assembly. COL Raven was a woman of distinction. For six weeks, she was Post Surgeon at Camp Brackenridge, Kentucky, in 1959, making her possibly the first woman to command a medical unit. In her civilian life, she served in the capacity of the Deputy Medical Examiner for Los Angeles, California (1958), and then in the same position for Wayne County, Michigan (1959). At the time of her promotion, she knew of no other women conducting postmortem examinations and/or providing testimony and evidence in court from the results of her findings.

("Pathologist First Woman to Wear AMC 'Eagles,'" Talon, 24 Aug 1961)

1961

The 45th Surgical Hospital (Mobile Army), attached to the 67th Medical Group at BAMC, performed two missions: standing at ready to deploy on short notice and assisting in the training of students at the MFSS by demonstrating field medical procedures.

("45th Surgical Hospital's Reconstitution Underway," Talon, 2 Nov 1961)

Practicing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation during classroom training for Army Medical Service enlisted men.

(U.S. Army Photo)

A DEET impregnated mesh protector suit worn by a volunteer.

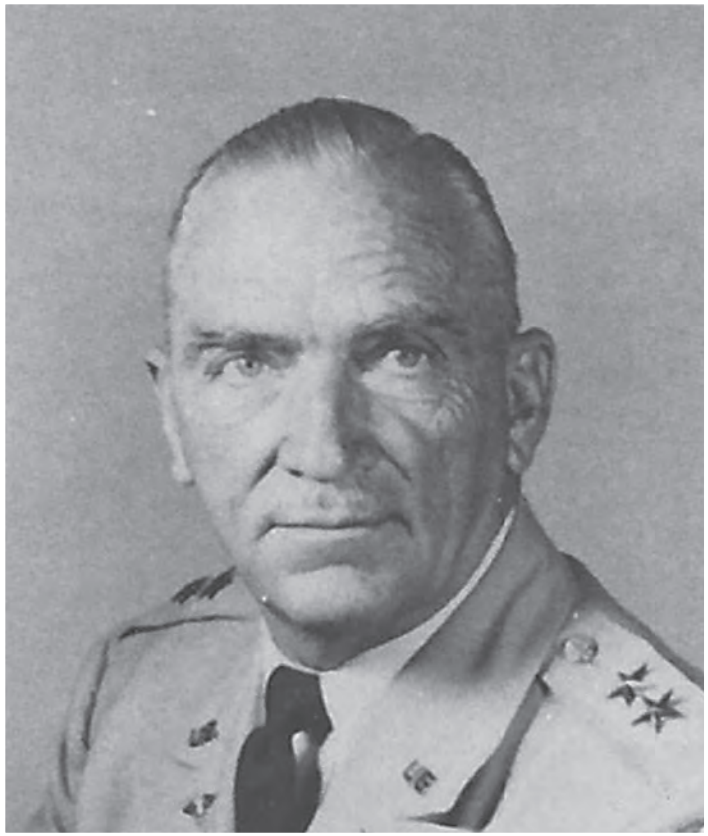
(U.S. Army Photo, "AEHA fights pollution," Newsletter of the U.S. Army Medical Department, Vol I , Oct 1970, No. 3, p 82)

Dr. James W. Nixon, a San Antonio surgeon and Chief Surgical Consultant to the Office of The Surgeon General, discussed the quality of Russian physicians drawn from his own experiences performing surgery at Russian hospitals at an MFSS orientation course. The 350 students in attendance were probably most surprised to hear that 75% of the 18,000 Russian physicians trained per year were women, in comparison to the scant 7,000 women physicians graduated in the United States that year.

("Quality of Russian doctors discussed by San Antonio Surgeon," Talon, 31 Aug 1961)

For the first time, vehicles at BAMC and MFSS were equipped with seat belts.

(COL Pappas States: Sea Belts Promote Safety; Aid to Passenger Comfort," Talon, 5 Oct 1961).



New commanding general of Brooke Army Medical Center

Major General James L. Snyder, Commandant of the Medical Field Service School, was promoted from the rank of Brigadier General in a ceremony at BAMC on 2 October 1961. Shortly thereafter, on 1 December, he succeeded MG John F. Bohlender, as commanding general of Brooke Army Medical Center.

("General James L. Snyder Receives Second Star," Talon, 5 October 1961; "Bohlender Will Retire," San Antonio Express, 1 Nov 1961)

1962

June 2, 1962: James T. McGibony, Commandant of the MFSS, was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General. BG McGibony assumed his position as Commandant of the MFSS on 1 March 1962.

("James T. McGibony Promoted to Brig Gen.," Talon, 5 July 1962)

CPT Alba F. Zanin, the first woman to complete the Army Dental Internship program, became the second woman dentist to enter the Army. In August of 1962, she was the only woman out of a class of 500 men to attend a basic military orientation course.

("Five Hundred Men - One Girl," Talon, 16 Aug 1962, p 3)

The "Documentaries Medical," a radio series of interviews with medical personnel, was broadcast every Sunday over the airwaves of Brooke General Hospital's radio station WOAI.

("Documentaries Medical," Talon, 5 July 1962, p 8)

The MFSS and all units with the Brooke Army Medical Center were assigned to the Fourth U.S. Army effective 1 July 1962.

("Fourth U.S. Army Gains 41 Activities, Unit," Talon, 5 July 1962)

The Medical Laboratory moved to Camp Bullis for five weeks of field testing. Conducted between 28 September and 3 November, the field test was a revision and shakedown inspection of inadequacies of organization and equipment, according to specifications drawn up in 1958.

("COL Lukeman, Commanding: Medical Lab Moves to Camp Bullis for Five Weeks Field Testing," Talon, 27 Sept 1962)

A student prepares a capsule as part of the Pharmacy Specialist Course. 5 Jan 1962.

(U.S. Army Photo, AMEDD Museum Photo Collection)

Fourth Army Patch

(Courtesy FSH Museum Collection.)

In 1962, the Non-Resident Instruction of the MFSS distributed educational material through correspondence courses and the U.S. Army Reserve School Program. COL Clayton views correspondence unsacked by SP4 Jack Skaggs. The department received an average of 3,000 pieces of correspondence a month.

("Education by Mail: Big Army Business," San Antonio Light, 6 Nov 1962)

The MFSS held its first course in Environmental Health Engineering.

("Medics Open New Environmental Study," Military Service News, 5 Oct 1962)

News articles throughout the year indicated how all elements of the MFSS were involved in planning and training for a potential nuclear blast. Researchers with the Department of Preventive Medicine prepared papers on "Providing Water Utility Operations After Nuclear Attack." Instructors and staff attended the Nuclear Weapons Medical Symposium to improve instruction for the Management of Mass Casualties Course. The Military Science Branch simulated nuclear weapons blasts for training exercises. The Training Aids Department focused its moulage techniques on specialized mock nuclear burns.

SP4 Dennis Przedzial locates an officer of Vietnam via a training aid called "One World-MFSS." The aid contained pictures of foreign officers attending courses at MFSS and was a precursor to the display located outside of the International Students Office at Aabel Hall.

(MFSS Scrapbook 1962, Stimson Library Special Collections)

Mrs. A. L. Barlow, Stimson Librarian, is presented the Certificate of Achievement and Letter of Appreciation from BG James T. McGibony, Commandant, MFSS, upon her retirement. In 1962, the Stimson Library was considered one of the best medical libraries in the country, housing 30,000 volumes, including 10,000 medical works.

(U.S. ArmyPhoto. "Stimson Medical Library One of the Best," San Antonio Light, 25 Oct 1962)

1963

In January of 1963, the MFSS started its second "Future War Medical Course" with approximately 25 senior Army Medical Service officers in attendance, including three Canadian, one Greek and two U.S. Air Force officers. The course was taught by LTC Jack C. Fitzpatrick, Director of the Department of Nuclear Science at the MFSS.

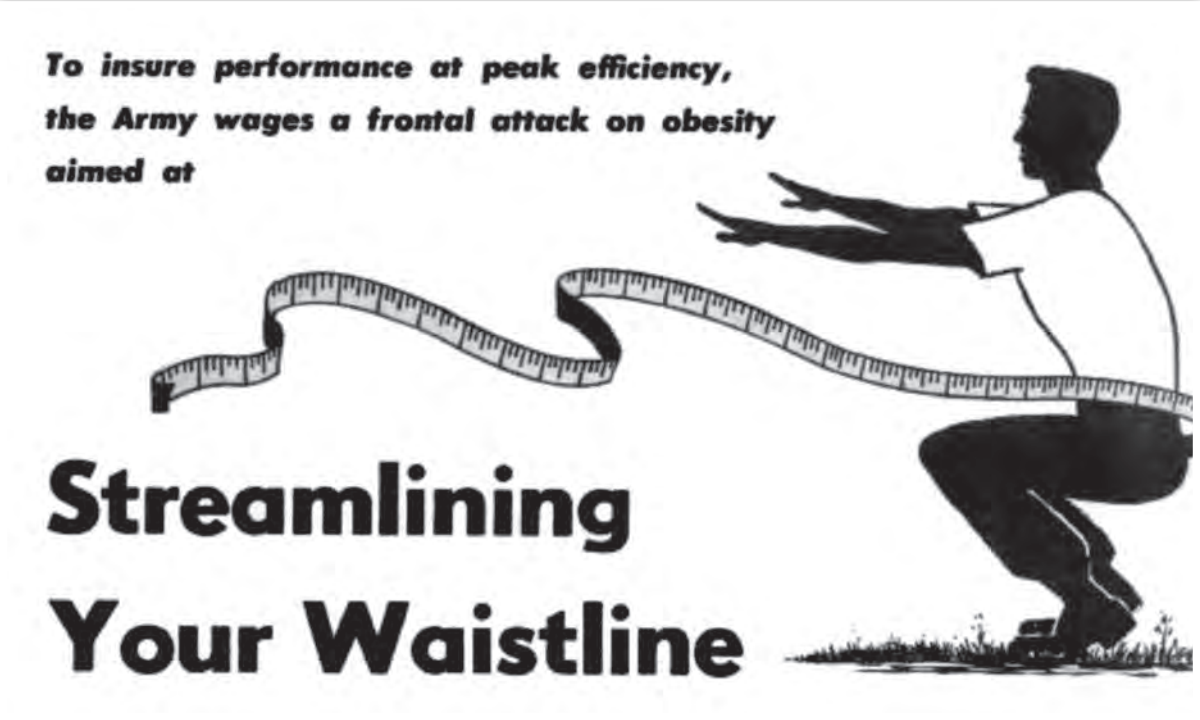
("Future War Medical Course Opens Here," San Antonio News, 16 Jan 1963)

COL Vincent I. Hack, Director of the Training Aids Department at FSH, delivered instruction to 200 Texas funeral directors at San Antonio College on their roles should San Antonio be struck by nuclear attack, 15 January 1963.

("Casualty Emphasize CD Points," San Antonio News, 15 Jan 1963)

The MFSS added a course for Medical, Dental, and Vet Corps Officers designed to acquaint newly commissioned officers with the problems of unit administration, personnel management, medical records and reports, and supply procedures. The course is given the tongue and cheek title of "In Basket Exercise (IBEX)."

("'Ibex' Aids MFSS Orientation Course," Talon, 7 Feb 1963)



The Army's program against obesity was promoted at the MFSS. Images like the one at left were posted throughout the school.

("Streamlining Your Waist," by LTG Leonard D. Heaton, Army Information Digest, Jan 1963, p 31)

Five Marine Corps officers presented instruction to MFSS Service Career Course students on "Operation Sea Horse," an amphibious assault of the future, on 28 February 1963.

("Marines 'Land' As MFSS Instructors," Talon, 28 Feb 1963)

The Army's most decorated woman, COL Ruby G. Bradley, retired after 29 years in the Army Nurse Corps on 29 March 1963.

("Most Decorated Army Nurse Retiring," San Antonio Light, 28 March 1963)

From February to May 1963, televisions were placed in six classrooms as part of a feasibility study for the use of television as a training aid for instructional presentations.

The MFSS Wound Ballistic Laboratory was featured in the San Antonio Light. The lab was responsible for generating ballistic wounds studies, simulated wounds caused by various bullets.

("MFSS Course: Wounds Simulated," San Antonio Light, 3 May 1963)

Most Decorated Woman Retires

COL Ruby G. Bradley receives the Legion of Merit (Second Oak Leaf Cluster) from MG James Snyder, Commanding General, Brooke Army Medical Center. COL Bradley, the Army's most decorated woman, ended her Army career as Director of Nursing Activities at the center 29 March 1963.

(U.S. Army Photo, U.S. Lady, June 1963)

Giant, floor-to-ceiling schedule boards are used for the tracking of all MFSS courses, instructors, and classrooms. ("MFSS Has System: Planning Keeps Classes Efficient," San Antonio Light, 28 April 1963)

1963

Representatives from the Armed Forces Radiology Research Institute briefed the staff of the Department of Nuclear Science on the Manually Operated Graphic Computer (GRACOMP) and presented the MFSS with a Radiac Fallout Simulator.

Two groups of civilian women were offered the opportunity to attend OPERATION BLOW UP at Camp Bullis, a dramatization of how an atomic attack would affect their community.

Fort Polk soldiers received moulage training from the MFSS. The Preventive Medicine Department published a study on the Common Cold.

(1963 MFSS Scrapbook, Stimson Library Special Collections)

Home Sweet Home
Army Nurse Corps Quarters at Davidson Hall: homey touches, 12 March 1963.

(1963 MFSS Scrapbook, Stimson Library Special Collections)

Moulages played an ever-increasing role as training aids in showing medical personnel what they would encounter in the field and hospital. LTC Vincent Hack (rear) adds realism to training. SP4 Robert C. Wells (right) applies moulage to PFC. Donald Kitz.

("Simulated Wounds: Moulages Horrify Observers," San Antonio Light, 28 March 1963)

Students receive instruction in forceps delivery in May 1963.

(U.S. Army Photo, AMEDD Museum Collection)

Therapy
CPT John W. Lavalley gives a class on muscle science in the physiology lab, 18 March 1963.

(U.S. Army Photo, AMEDD Museum Collection)

Dr. Virginia F. Harrison gives a class on gross anatomy to students in the Physical Therapy Course, 18 March 1963.

(U.S. Army Photo, AMEDD Museum Collection)

1964

Designed to be as life-like as possible to evoke a shock reaction to medical responders in training, the first portable medical training dummy had a variety of simulated wounds, some of grievous character. The dummy could be operated independent of a base, allowing him to be placed in the field and in just about any position. It had a number of interchangeable moulages through which fake blood was pumped.

(United States Patent Office, Patent Number 3,027,655, patented April 3, 1962)

According to an MFSS inventory card, the dummy, donated to the AMEDD Museum in 1984, was in use at the school sometime between 1961 and 1963. It was invented by S.W. Alderson, inventor of the original aerospace crash-test dummies for NASA and the USAF in the 1950s. Alderson's work also included a CPR dummy nicknamed "Joe Blow," moulages worn by soldiers during medical training that oozed mock blood, and human-like figures called "medical phantoms" used to measure exposure to radiation.

("Obituary: Samuael Alderson, Crash-Test Dummy Inventor, Dies at 90," By Margalit Fox, The New York Times, 18 February 2005)

27 nurses from the MFSS left BAMC early on a Sunday morning to participate in Operation Desert Strike, a massive U.S. Army maneuver being held in the deserts of California and Arizona. The three week exercise took place in lieu of their regular classroom training. They dealt with not only simulated casualties but also any real injuries that occurred during the extensive maneuver.

("MFSS Nurses to Join Desert Strike," Talon, 7 May 1964)

"Re-Teaching" sessions were adopted as a method of instruction at the MFSS, replacing the long used "critique" following examinations administered during a course. This type of session permitted the student to reinforce and clarify knowledge of principles when there was inadequate or incorrect understanding, and highlighted areas needing further study.

("MFSS Adopts New Teaching Method," Military Service News, 26 June 1964)

Synthetic Casualty
"PROTOTYPE MODEL 6910-M02-0001 (Male Body for First Aid Training). The original cost of the prototype was $18,300.

(U.S. Army photo, photo by Carlos Martinez; AMEDD Museum Collection)

1964

The 21st and 22nd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadrons of the 1st Aeromedical Group, Pope AFB, N.C., demonstrated the Tactical Aeromedical Evacuation System to students of the Army Medical Service Officer Career Course during a presentation given at Randolph AFB. The 1st Aeromedical Evacuation group was the only unit of its kind in the USA and supported both Army and AF exercises requiring the use of the "Casualty Staging Facility," which provided for the receipt, shelter, medical care, and processing of patients scheduled for movement by air.

("Angels of Mercy with Wings," Talon, 23 April 1964)

Seven special "study cubicles" to facilitate research and study were introduced to MFSS students and faculty members in August of 1964. Each cubicle, devoted to a specific disease entity and equipped with panels that detailed various aspects of each disease, were designed to decrease the time students would have to spend compiling data. They were installed in the library as a training aid for the Preventive Medicine Department.

("Cubicles Add Room for Study," San Antonio Light, 14 August 1964)

Arbor Virus Study Cubicle
One of the seven special study cubicles in Stimson Library.

(U.S. Army Photo)

Villa Borg
Major Lavern P. Borg (fifth from the left) poses for a photo at the site of Villa Borg in Bolivia.

(U.S. Army Photo)

MFSS student Major Lavern Borg was the first Medical Service Advisor assigned to the Bolivian Armed Forces. Working through the Alliance for Progress Reform Program, the Bolivian Army requested U.S. help in setting up a medical service program. Major Borg was selected and he and his family moved to La Paz. There, he fulfilled his responsibility by coordinating, designing and implementating of the Bolivian medical service program. At one point during his assignment, an outbreak of yellow fever occurred in the remote area of Alto Beni, resulting in 18 deaths. Through the combined efforts of Major Borg and other agencies, the outbreak was halted through immunizations and treatment. Grateful Bolivian settlers erected a sign for their town which read: "Another example of the Alliance for Progress" VILLA BORG.

("MFSS Student May Claim a First in Village Naming," Talon, 17 September 1964)

MFSS student, 2LT Stephen Richardson, was awarded the Soldier's Medal for Heroism by MFSS Commandant, BG James McGibony. 2LT Richardson was attending the U.S. Army Airborne School and was aboard an aircraft with other students to perform the first of five qualifying parachute jumps. Just prior to the approach to the jump zone, the aircraft developed engine trouble, crashed, and burned. 2LT Richardson escaped but re-entered the plane to rescue trapped students.

("Soldier's Medal Awarded Lieutenant," San Antonio News, 25 November 1964)

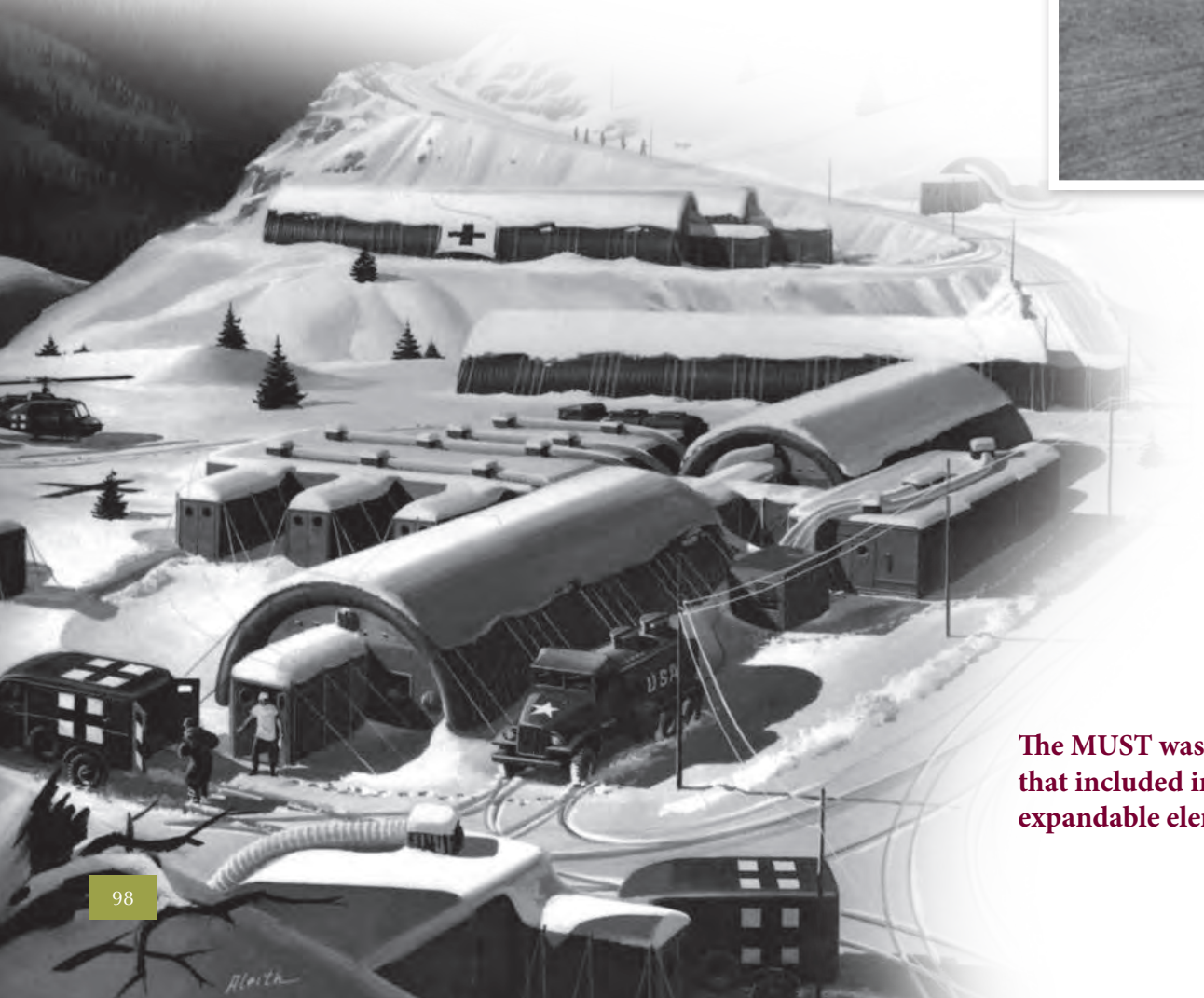
LTC Leo Osterhaus, a personnel management instructor in the Department of Administration, MFSS, explained the various techniques utilized at MFSS to "change dull subjects into pearls of knowledge," in the December issue of Adult Leadership Magazine, published monthly by the Adult Education Association.

("MFSS Officer Featured in Adult Leadership Magazine," Talon, 16 Jan 1964)

1965

In March 1965, the Army unveiled the first advance in field hospitals since the Civil War, the MUST (Medical Unit, Self-Contained, Transportable). Its basic features were mobility, short setup time, high reliability and efficiency, controlled environment, and the capability of maintaining all-weather operations.

(M.U.S.T. — Medical Unit Self-Contained, Transportable, developed for the U.S. Army Medical Service, A Garret-Airesearch Report, 1964)



A 60-bed surgical hospital displayed the use of MUST (Medical Unit, Self-contained, Transportable) equipment in a demonstration at Camp Bullis in September 1968.

(U.S. Army Photo)

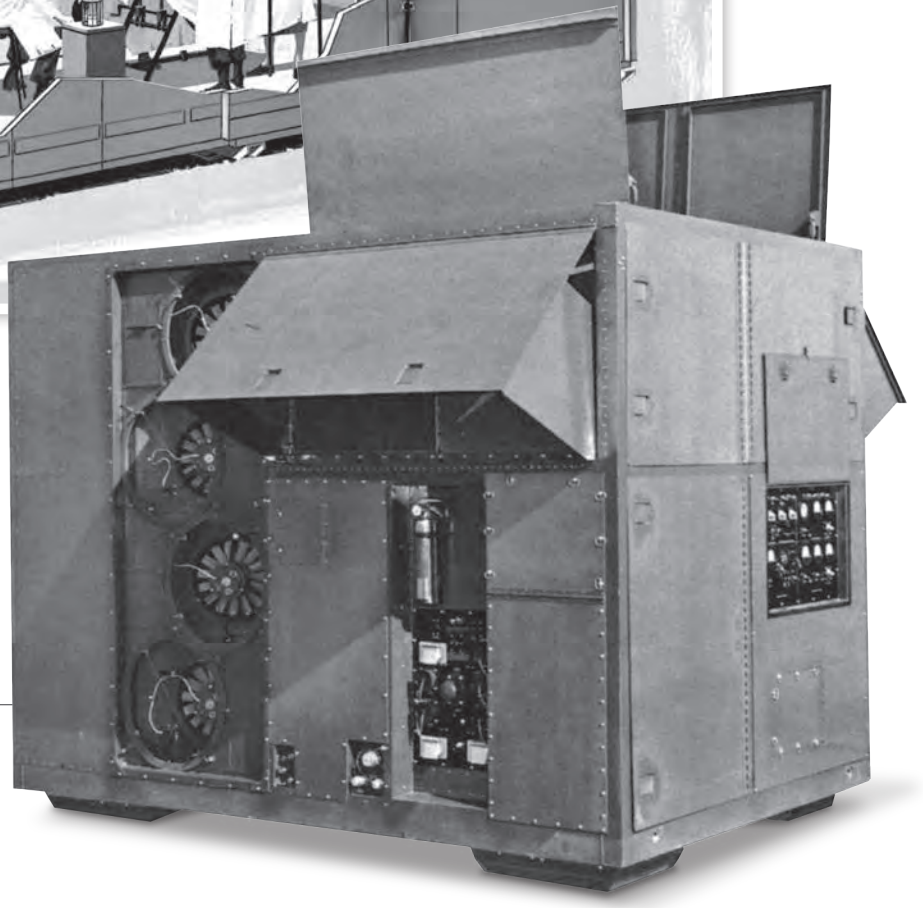
The MUST was a three-element system that included inflatable elements, expandable elements, and utility elements.

Inflatable elements

Double walled shelters that provided large free space areas used primarily as field hospital wards.

1965

Expandable elements
Collapsible, rigid panel shelter that could be quickly opened and made ready within 30 minutes. Typical uses for these elements within a field hospital complex included surgery, sterile supply preparation, X-ray, pharmacy, clinical laboratory, central material supply, patient diet preparation, and dental facilities.



Utility elements
A power package that supplied refrigeration, air heating and circulation, water heating and pumping, air pressure, air pressure for the inflatable elements, and compressed air and suction.

Members of BAMC and MFSS assisted as part of the recovery team for the Gemini IV space flights in June 1965.

September 1965 marked the graduation of the 1,300th foreign student to have attended courses at the MFSS since 1946.

MFSS constructed and began utilization of special study booths that were considered miniature medical libraries, each devoted to a specific disease. The study booths were considered an outstanding teaching tool, enabling students to learn more quickly as their study materials were consolidated in one area.

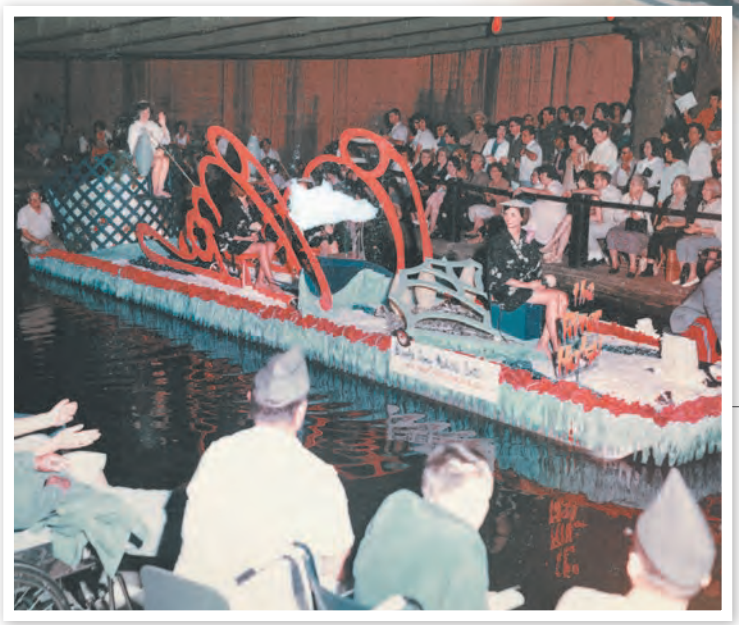
A mock nuclear blast was conducted at Camp Bullis as part of the final stage of the Medical Management of Mass Casualties Course. Known as "OPERATION BLOW UP," it focused on casualty estimation, concepts of diagnosis, triage, prioritization and treatment.

(Annual Historical Report, MFSS , CY 1965)

MFSS celebrated its 45th anniversary in Salado Park with a BBQ picnic with service members and families.

The 1965 BAMC Battle of the Flowers float

(U.S. Army Photo, AMEDD Museum Photo Collection)



The 1965 BAMC float in the Texas Cavaliers River Parade.

(U.S. Army Photo, AMEDD Museum Photo Collection)

1966

The Department of Preventive Medicine investigated an epidemic of rubella that occurred at Fort Sam Houston the second week of February. The total number of cases within the MFSS was 87.

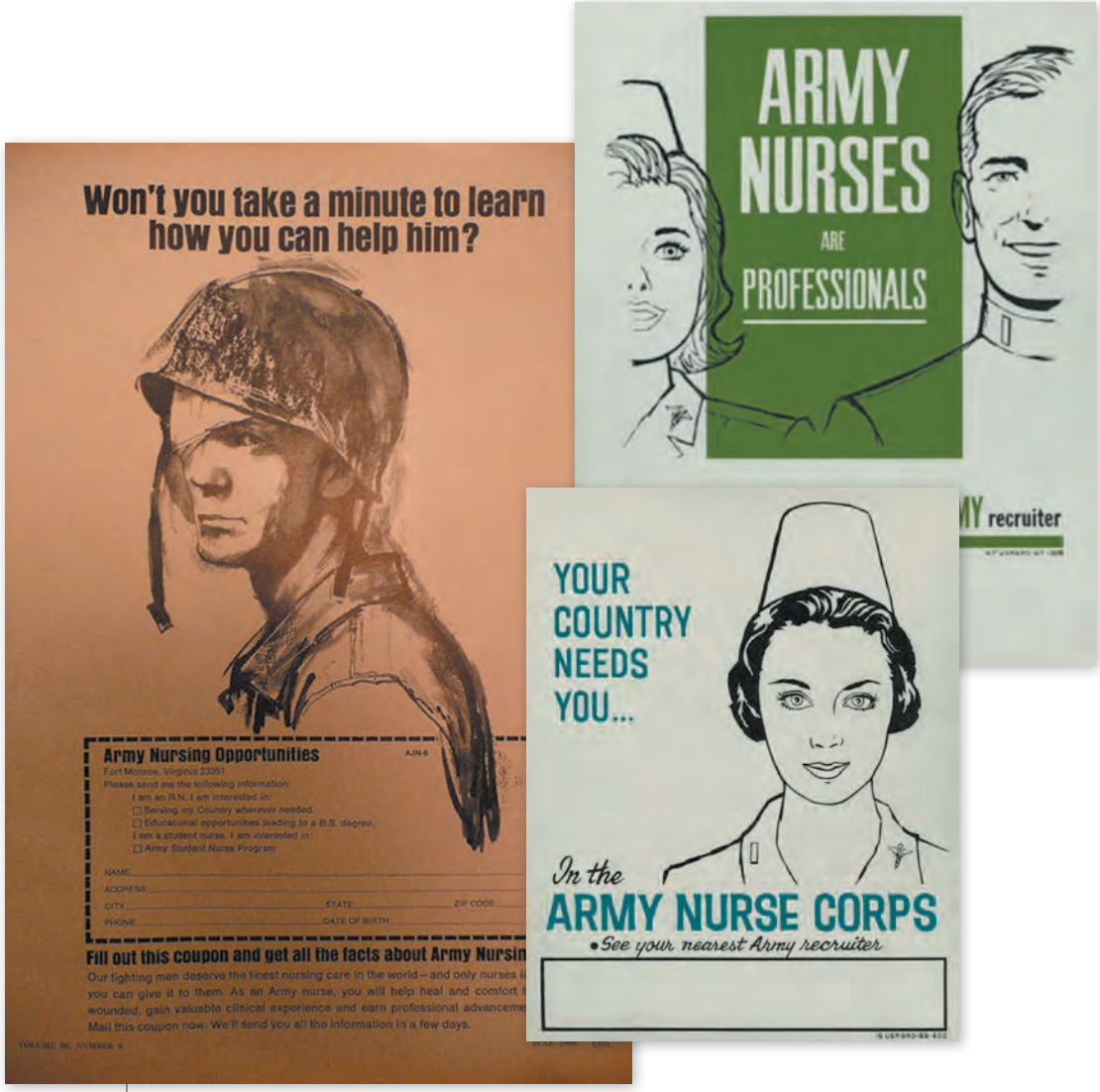
(Annual Historical Report MFSS CY 1966, p 24)

Camp Bullis hosted OPERATION BLOW UP, a demonstration of a mock nuclear blast for military and civilian personnel participating in the MFSS Management of Mass Casualties Course the second week of March.

("Camp Bullis Scene of Realistic Demonstration," Talon, 17 March 1966)

In a background of smoking debris, a simulated casualty sobs as he plays his role in OPERATION BLOW UP. 11 March 1966.

(U.S. Army Photo, AMEDD Museum Photo Collection)



Forty-two nurses in the MFSS Army Nurse Corps Officer Basic Class volunteered for service in Vietnam following their 21 May graduation.

("42 Army Nurses at MFSS Volunteer for Vietnam Service," Talon, 12 May 1966)
(Army Nurse Corps Posters, AMEDD Museum)

Throughout the year, members of the Department of Veterinary Science, in cooperation with the Sentry Dog Training Center, Lackland Air Force Base, veterinary and trainer personnel, held sentry dog demonstrations at Camp Bullis for Veterinary Corps officer students in the Army Medical Services Officers Basic Course, 6-8-CZOA, and the Associate Army Medical Service Officer Career Course, 6-8-C23.

(Annual Historical Report, MFSS, CY 1966, p 19)

("American Doctor Examines Vietnamese Child," Samuel E. Alexander, CAT IV, 1967, Courtesy of the National Museum of the U.S. Army)

Six Army, Navy and Air Force mobile military medical teams, scheduled to serve in civilian provincial hospitals in Vietnam, were given two weeks training at the School in the Military Provincial Hospital Assistance Program (MILPHAP) at the MFSS. The teams were used to expand health and medical services for the Vietnamese civilian rural population.

(Annual Historical Report, MFSS, CY 1966, p 19)

MAJ Francis A. Copeland, an instructor at the MFSS, former Commander of the 82nd Helicopter Detachment in Vietnam, received 23 decorations. BG Glenn J. Collins presented MAJ Copeland with two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the second through 19th Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal and the Bronze Star Medal, on 24 June 1966. Nancy Copeland, his wife, is seen giving him a kiss.

(Photo courtesy of the Copeland family, "Fort Sam Officer Gets Decorations," San Antonio Express, 17 June 1966, P 2-F.)

The Television Division was established at the MFSS on 15 December 1966. Closed circuit television as an instructional medium had been evaluated at the School since 1953. After a study of closed circuit techniques from 23 February to 23 May 1963 by the U.S. Army Signal Corps Mobile Television Unit, the Office of the Surgeon General approved a permanent television system in 1966 and allocated $750,000 for the procurement and installation of a permanent closed circuit system for the School. A separate building was erected to accommodate the closed circuit instructional facility, along with four additional classroom buildings, along Patch Road.

(Annual Historical Report, MFSS, CY 1966, p ii)

Four video tape recorders were authorized for use by the Personnel Management Branch to improve oral communications for students in the Army Medical Service Officer Advanced Course and Hospital Administration Course. The recorders had instant playback capabilities to enable students to self-critique their performances.

(Annual Historical Report, MFSS, CY 1966, p 25)

1967

In July 1967, the Command Sergeants Major (CSM) Program was established by the Army Chief of Staff, General Harold K. Johnson. The program assigned a small group of selected sergeants major to all major commands of the Army. They were to serve as senior enlisted advisors and ombudsmen for all matters pertaining to enlisted members of their command.

1967 was a big year for BAMC and the MFSS with the dedication of the Charles L. Kelly Heliport, establishment of an efficient new blood donor center for the hospital, and installation of closed circuit television, which utilized the latest in color video equipment as a classroom teaching aid.

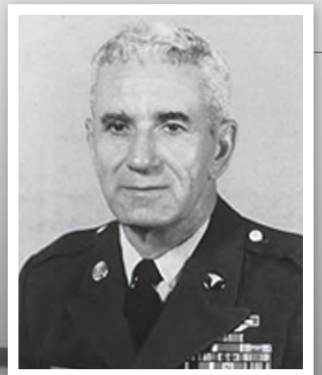
("BAMC Marks Anniversary," Military Service News, 28 Jan 1972)

The Charles L. Kelly Heliport

(U.S. Army Photo, FSH Museum Collection)

2LT Von Trapp studies during his MSC Officer Basic Course.

(U.S. Army Photo)



CSM Howard A. Tavernier, first CSM of the MFSS

(U.S. Army Photo, AMEDDC&S History Office files)

An unknown meeting in an MFSS classroom with newly installed closed circuit television monitor.

(U.S. Army photo. AMEDD Museum Photo Collection)

2LT Johannes Von Trapp, the youngest member of the famed Baron Georg Johannes Von Trapp family (whose story was told in the motion picture musical, "Sound of Music") was interviewed while attending the MSC Officer Basic Course. 2LT Von Trapp was a member of the Vermont National Guard on active duty. After completing his military obligation, he hoped to return to college for his graduate degree.

("Von Trapp's Sound of Music Now Has A Military Rhythm" Talon, 9 Feb 1967)

By Fall 1967, the MFSS had the most modern and complete color closed circuit television system of any military establishment. The system was operated and maintained by a staff of 15, and nearly 300 receivers were installed in 100 classrooms as training aids for more than 15,000 military personnel annually.

("Medical TV Net Launched," San Antonio Express, 13 Aug 1967)

Organization Day 1967 included skydivers, a jump tower, balloon bust, and lots of good food.

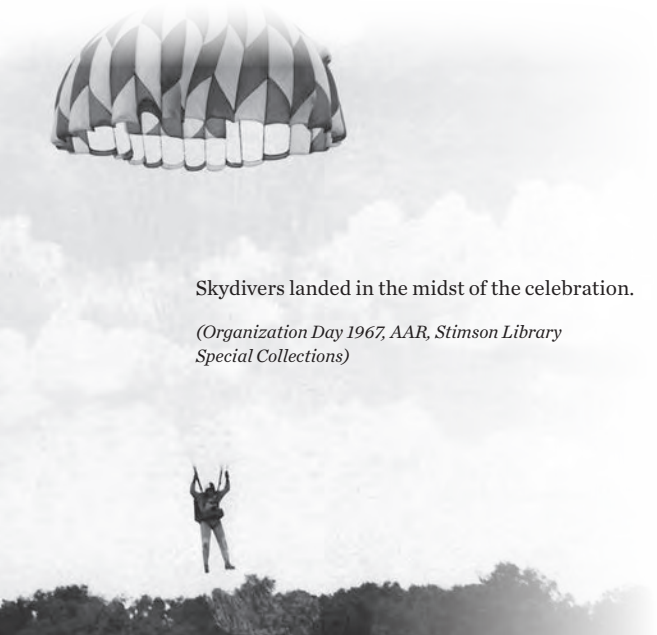
(Organization Day 1967, AAR, Stimson Library Special Collections)

Ticket vendors toast the camera with Miller and Lone Star beer.

(Organization Day 1967, AAR, Stimson Library Special Collections)

The skydivers gather after their jump. The one on the far left has a Hawaiian shirt beneath his jumpsuit. The skydivers appeared ready to stay and enjoy the celebration.

(Organization Day 1967, AAR, Stimson Library Special Collections)



Skydivers landed in the midst of the celebration.

(Organization Day 1967, AAR, Stimson Library Special Collections)

A "Bust a Balloon" booth for family entertainment.

(Organization Day 1967, AAR, Stimson Library, Special Collections)

Family members make the most of an opportunity to try skydiving.

(Organization Day 1967, AAR, Stimson Library Special Collections)

1967

Not all California students were against the war in Vietnam. Four students at the MFSS joined the Army specifically to serve in Vietnam. All four were June graduates of the Los Angeles County General Hospital School of Nursing. They were a different breed from the students and non-students who made headlines with anti-war demonstrations at Berkeley.

("California WACs in S.A. Term Demonstrators 'For the Birds'" San Antonio News, 20 Oct 1967)

2LT Thomas Bedick, an instructor at the MFSS, was one Army officer who got plenty of exercise moonlighting as a defensive back for the San Antonio Toros in the Texas Professional Football League. After most of personnel at the school went home for an evening of relaxation, 2LT Bedick headed for the practice field. A former player at Penn State, 2LT Bedick hoped for a major professional football tryout.

("MFSS Instructor Moonlights as Toro," San Antonio News, 19 Oct 1967)

Building 2792 of the MFSS was well known to enlisted students as the location of many of their courses. Courses conducted in bldg. 2792 in 1967 included dental, operating room procedures, Special Forces Aidman, medical laboratory, pharmacy, and radiography.

(U.S. Army Photo, AMEDD Museum Photo Collection)

PFC Rochell Brown, MFSS student, uses one of four new carrels (study booths) given to Stimson Library by former students.

("New Carrels," Talon, 2 Nov 1967)

Students in the Army Nurse Corps Officer basic course at the MFSS prepare for dress blue inspection. Some of the nurses are in greens or whites because those going into Vietnam upon graduation were permitted to wait until return to the U.S. before buying dress blues.

(U.S. ArmyPhoto, AMEDD Museum Photo Collection)

A Chaplain gives religious comfort to a patient while a student nurse works over her "patient" during field exercises in a MUST on 31 March 1967

(U.S. Army Photo, AMEDD Museum Photo Collection)

"Military nurses were more motivated and more likely to continue studying after they became nurses than their counterparts in civilian hospitals and institutions," according to the director of the division of nursing education at Teacher's College at Columbia University, Dr. Eleanor Lambertsen. Dr. Lambertsen also said that civilian hospitals and institutions would do well to adopt some of the military techniques – particularly in screening and selecting applicants for nurse training. "Military nurses are used to studying," she said. "In a civilian situation, there aren't compelling forces for nurses to keep studying."

("Nurse Program Praised by Columbia Professor," Talon, 7 Dec 1967)

A radiology resident demonstrates the injection of dye into the common carotid artery on 26 June 1967.

(U.S. Army Photo, AMEDD Museum Photo Collection)

The Army-Baylor Program celebrated its 20th Anniversary of building "Military Health Care Statesmen."

("Building Health Care Statesmen," 1967, Stimson Library Special Collections)

A simulated Operating Room is set up at Camp Bullis during field exercises in October 1967.

(U.S. Army Photo, AMEDD Museum Photo Collection)

Officers Basic Course students treat a "patient" suffering from a skull fracture during field exercises at Camp Bullis.

(U.S. Army Photo, AMEDD Museum Photo Collection)

A simulated Operating Room is set up at Camp Bullis during field exercises in October 1967.

(U.S. Army Photo, AMEDD Museum Photo Collection)

1968

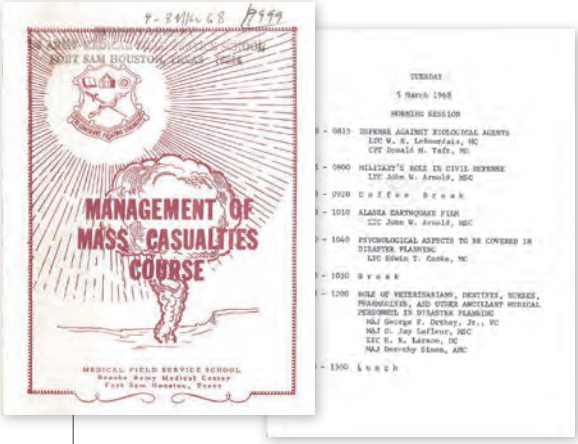
Enlisted students in the Preventive Medicine Course at the U.S. Army Medical Field Service School Advance Course spent one week of their 16-week course in the field near Canyon Lake, Texas. "They do a comprehensive PM survey of the area to be occupied by troops. Everything is dependent on the actions taken by the students. They are given a situation and they are then to decide what equipment, vehicles, and supplies will be necessary to perform the field problem," said COL Jerome Greenburg, Director of the Department of Preventive Medicine.

("Week at Canyon Lake Part of MFSS Training," Talon, 3 July 1968)

COL H. Jennings, Commander USAH, Fort Benning, Ga.; Dr. Truman G. Blocker Jr., President of the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) at Galveston; and BG O. Elliot Ursin, Commandant of the MFSS, meet before their presentation to 135 UTMB students about to participate in OPERATION BLOW UP, a simulated nuclear blast designed as a training exercise in military and disaster medicine.

More than 600 persons witnessed OPERATION BLOWUP in March 1968. Photographers and spectators alike got a look at the "charred corpses" near the center of a simulated nuclear blast.

(U.S. Army Photo, AMEDD Museum Photo Collection)



Program from the 5 March 1968 Management of Mass Casualties Course.

(Stimson Library Special Collections)

A tour designed to emphasize career possibilities at Fort Sam Houston was conducted for 106 economically-disadvantaged student aides hired at BAMC under the Youth Opportunity Program (YOP). Various stations located at BAMC, the MFSS, and other post departments offered a 30-minute orientation concerning their areas. The tour gave students the opportunity to look at various unfamiliar career possibilities.

("Career Possibilities Aim of BAMC YOP Tour," Talon, 29 August 1968)

A desire for diversification led a civilian medical social worker to become one of the few women among nearly 6,000 officers in the Army Medical Corps. CPT Myra Gulley, a student at the MFSS, was a medical social worker in Tulsa, Oklahoma, when she decided to make the change. She was seeking a place where work would be more diverse and she could do some supervisory work and have a chance to travel. She decided the Army Medical Service Corps offered the best possibility to achieve all of these.

("Desire for Diversification Leads Woman to MSC Commission," Talon, 7 November 1968)

Army Nurse Corps students eat their C rations during field training at Camp Bullis, 18 Oct 1968.

(U.S. Army Photo, AMEDD Museum Photo Collection)

Veterinary Corps Officers attending basic course conduct drill and ceremony in the Quadrangle.

(U.S. Army Photo, AMEDD Museum Photo Collection)

1969

On 23 Jan 1969, the 323rd Army Band at the U.S. Army MFSS observed its 25th anniversary as the schoolhouse band. It was the only band assigned directly to an activity of the Surgeon General of the Army and had been proudly called, "our band" by nearly every officer of the medical department for the 25 years.

("Band Marks a Quarter-Century of Performance," Talon, 24 Jan 1969)

Graduation Exercises Program for the December 1969 MFSS Noncommissioned Officer Course.

(Stimson Library, Special Collections)

Designed to acquaint teachers with the equipment and explain the firsthand opportunities offered in the field of Army medical technology, the MFSS provided exhibits at Dunbar Junior High School in San Antonio in May 1969. It was the highlight of a gathering of the Science Teachers Association of Texas and lauded by those who attended.

("200 Texas Science Teachers See MFSS Exhibits; Get Picture of Medical Training Programs," Talon, 6 May, 1969)

Less than 24 hours prior to their graduation from the Officer Basic Course, 64 Army Medical Officers, formerly citizens of 31 foreign nations, became U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony at the Federal Building in San Antonio on 5 May 1969. A total of 101 Medical Corps officers in the last two basic classes at the MFSS had been naturalized while attending school.

("MFSS Officers Become Citizens; 64 Naturalized in SA Ceremony," Talon, May 8, 1969)
("Band Marks a Quarter-Century of Performance," Talon, 24 Jan 1969)

The 323d Army Band, 1969

(U.S. Army Photo, AMEDDC&S History Office files)

MSG Tanner, who served as a Special Forces instructor at the MFSS schoolhouse, was one of three military medical aidmen who served as an emergency response team during the launch at Cape Kennedy, Florida, in 1969. Stationed in three specially-equipped armored personnel carriers, the members of the Pad Egress Team were there to respond to any fire or explosion that would have called for the rescue of the astronauts while on the launch pad.

("Ringside Seat for Apollo Launchings: MFSS Sergeant Serves Where the Action Is," Talon, 15 Aug, 1969)

On 9 Oct 1969, MAJ Patrick H. Brady, Army Medical Department helicopter pilot and instructor at the MFSS, was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Nixon for his valorous action of January 1968. Already one of the Army's most decorated officers, he was the first officer in the MSC to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

("51 Lives Saved," Military Scene Magazine, December 1969)

MAJ Patrick H. Brady

("51 Lives Saved," Military Scene Magazine, December 1969)

SP4 John W. Caddell demonstrates mouth-to-mouth on a mannequin during the Expert Field Medical Badge Test.

(U.S. Army Photo, AMEDD Museum Photo Collection)